

CDC *Vital Signs* Town Hall Teleconference

**Drinking and Driving in the U.S.
Q & A Transcript**

October 11, 2011
2:00pm – 3:00pm EST

Kimberly Wilson: Thanks everybody for those excellent presentations. In just a minute the operator's going to open all of the lines for the Q&A. As a courtesy to everyone on the call, please mute your phone if you're not talking either by pressing your mute button or by pushing star 6.

Operator, can you go ahead and open the lines now please?

Could you please...

Coordinator: One moment.

All lines are open.

Kimberly Wilson: All right. I'd like to kick off our discussion by turning it back over to Dr. Monroe for her initial comments and thoughts.

Dr. Judith Monroe: Well thanks. Congratulations to New Mexico and Minnesota for the work that you're doing. Very interesting presentations. I have a question and I don't know if Gwen or others on the call might answer this.

Just to drill a little deeper. I'm a family physician, in practice for a number of years and one thing that I remember hearing our psychologists and psychiatrists talk about was how amazing one night in jail, what an amazing impact that could have on behavior sometimes when other interventions had not had the impact that was needed.

Do you all know of studies that have looked precisely at that impact of the individual when they find themselves in jail overnight for driving while intoxicated and/or, I guess the second part of the question, is the ripple affect when the one individual gets slammed in jail and what impact that has on their friends and their peer group?

Dr. Gwen Bergen: This is Gwen. I don't know of any studies that look at that specifically. We do hope - one theory behind how all of these deterrence interventions work such as sobriety checkpoints or interlocks is that they influence the general public by showing them that there is a punishment for drinking and driving.

And so we think in one way that they are effective is by changing the social norm and increasing the public's perceived susceptibility to being arrested for drinking and driving.

Jean Ryan: This is Jean Ryan from Minnesota. About 15 years ago or so Minnesota did an evaluation of a program. It was a rather large county in Minnesota that required a two-day jail time for anybody arrested for DWI. And there was - it did demonstrate some effect in reducing (unintelligible) rates but I don't know anything about long-term as far as the ripple affect of it.

Dr. Judith Monroe: Thanks.

Kimberly Wilson: All right, at this time, we're open for questions.

(Jeff Metsger): Hi, this is (Jeff Metsger) from New Hampshire. We're interested in whether any calculations of the cost related to reduction in DWI infractions or fatalities as a result of alcohol related crashes has been calculated in conjunction with these studies?

Jim Roeber: This is Jim from New Mexico. We haven't really done anything to look at cost effectiveness or whatnot that I'm aware of.

(Jeff Metsger): Cost savings, thank you Jim.

Jim Roeber: Cost savings, yeah.

Dr. Gwen Bergen: This is Gwen Bergen and in our *Vital Signs* report we cite an injury report that says that sobriety checkpoints produce an estimated \$6.80 in benefits for each dollar spent. And ignition - I'm trying to find the number for ignition interlocks but I believe there is also a cost savings for ignition interlocks recited in...Yes, its \$6.60 for each dollar spent.

(Linda): This is (Linda) calling from San Diego County. And I'm wondering, did either Minnesota or New Mexico ask any questions like place of last drink or questions of that nature to the people who were arrested in your states with a DUI?

Jean Ryan: In Minnesota we have had some counties have developed that kind of a program where they do ask when there is a person arrested with a high alcohol concentration level where their last drink was and then trying to focus on bars in that - you know, kind of calling the bar into and holding them a little bit more responsible.

And even having a - we have an alcohol (unintelligible) enforcement go in and do compliance checks of those bars.

Jim Roeber: This is Jim from New Mexico. There was an element of the program particularly in later years of the program attempting to collect data on the place of the last drink and keep track of that, particularly in one or two of the counties but that was certainly regarded as an important piece of information.

(Linda): If you're interested actually California did a project of that sort. It was probably about nine years ago or so and I'm sure it's published somewhere that they did do a very large collection of last drink...They did - they required people to take a (course) and they asked them a bunch of questions about where they were last drinking and then worked with those bars to change their over...

Jim Roeber: Yeah, in New Mexico we do - we have a tracking system that assesses all DWI offenders after they've been sentenced and we ask a generic question, you know, where was the place of last drink? Was it a bar, a club, a restaurant, a number of other locations?

And consistently bars and clubs are sort of far and away the leading location where DWI events originated and actually the proportion of DWI events that originated in bars and clubs did drop substantially during the program period. There was another indicator of program success that I didn't really focus on.

(Anthony Kent): Hi, this is (Anthony Kent) from Tacoma Pierce County in Washington. I have two questions and the regard privatization of alcohol sales. And first is, is there someone putting cost effective data on liquor sobriety checkpoints, has anyone looked...So the first question, has anyone done cost numbers on the (vital) cost of privatization and then the second is, has anyone pursued (doing) an (unintelligible) of dram shop laws for alcohol outlets?

Jim Roeber: This is Jim from New Mexico, I know that the community guide to preventative services has recently done reviews on a number of those topics that you just mentioned; the effectiveness of dram shop liabilities laws, the effectiveness of, I believe they've done one on privatization. So, anyway, I would encourage you to go out and look at the community guide, alcohol chapter, to see what they've done in that area.

Mark Kinde: That's a great couple of questions. This is Mark from Minnesota and I think I would probably defer, or we would defer here to our colleague, Dr. Traci Toomey from the Division of Epidemiology at the University of Minnesota.

She has been heading up some alcohol epidemiology studies and cost evaluations and you're asking a great set of questions but I guess I could also defer Gwen to you as well to see if you have your fingers on some of those studies?

Dr. Gwen Bergen: My answer would be the same as the first. The community guide has recently reviewed dram shop liability and privatization or retail alcohol sales.

Mark Kinde: Okay.

Dr. Gwen Bergen: They report economic evidence when there is economic evidence and I'm not sure if there was for those two interventions or not.

Jim Roeber: Yeah, this is Jim again. I'm just looking at the Web site and I see that they definitely did these reviews. They recommended against privatization or retail alcohol sales based on the available evidence. They recommended dram shop liability measures as an effective strategy.

So, again, that's a great place for folks in the field to get more information.

Kimberly Wilson: All right, we have time for one more question before we wrap up.

Woman: This is my first call, where is that information on cost savings? I'm on the Web site and I'm - it's not leaping out at me.

Kimberly Wilson: At the community guide that they were just discussing is at www.communityguide.org. That link is also contained in the PowerPoint that you can download from the Web site and I'll give that again in a minute.

Woman: Thank you.

Kimberly Wilson: Okay, anybody else? All right, well that will wrap us up for today. Thank you so much to everyone who joined us. Before we close, if you have the presentation go ahead and take a look at the very last slide and that one provides a number of links that will help you integrate *Vital Signs* into your Web site and social media channels for free.

We have some stuff on Facebook and Twitter. You can also syndicate *Vital Signs* so it will automatically appear and update on your Web site and we have some interactive buttons and banners that you can also use.

The very last slide has got our email address which is OSTLTSfeedback@cdc.gov and OSTLTS is O-S-T-L-T-S.

Please let us know how we can improve these teleconferences to be more beneficial to you.

And, again, the Web site that we have where you can download the presentation if you missed it at the beginning is www.cdc.gov/ostlts.

And then when you go there you can click on the tab in the Flash module that says town hall and click on it twice and that will take you to where you can download the slides and then later in the week you'll be able to download the recording of this call to listen to it again.

So, we would like to thank Mark, Jim, Gwen and our other presenters very much for speaking with us today and sharing their results and we hope that you'll join us again next month on November 8. The call is going to be discussing prescription drug abuse.

Thank you very much.

Coordinator: Thank you. That does conclude today's conference call. Thank you for participating and you may disconnect at this time.